

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

On the Hill



Fiscal Year 1990 Appropriations Hearings Held

Our fiscal year 1991 budget has gone to Congress, and the Senate and House appropriations hearings for FNS were held March 6 and 8, respectively.

The budget reflects the Administration's commitment to fund benefits for low-income Americans. Unlimited funds are requested for the Food Stamp Program, and all other programs are funded at the estimated need under current law except for the Child Nutrition Programs. In school lunch, an increase of 20 cents in the reimbursement for a reduced-price lunch is requested as is the authority to discontinue subsidies to students from families with incomes above 350 percent of the poverty line. We are also proposing to make the subsidy rates in child-care homes comparable to those in centers. We will furnish updates as the budget progresses through Congress.

-Story by Frank Gatchell
Budget Division



Bertini was greeted by SERO staff on January 4 and was driven to her first meeting--a visit to the metro-Atlanta Community Health Program for the Homeless (ACHPH). Shortly afterwards, Bertini and ACHPH staff drove to Help House, Inc., in a van especially equipped to service the needs of homeless women and children.

At Help House, Bertini was given a tour of the housing available to men, women, women with children, and men with children. She also observed a health and nutrition counseling session with two pregnant, homeless women. This session was followed by WIC certification and instruction.

From there, Bertini travelled to Grady Memorial Hospital, site of one of the few hospital-based WIC programs in the Southeast. The first stop was a briefing by the director of Grady's

Assistant Secretary Bertini Visits SERO

Assistant Secretary Catherine Bertini capped an eventful 2-day visit to SERO by joining Regional Administrator Virgil Conrad in a ribbon-cutting ceremony that commemorated SERO's move into the heart of downtown Atlanta.

(Bertini Continued Next Page)

(Bertini Continued)

maternal and infant care program followed by a hospital tour of WIC services in action.

Bertini began the second day of her visit with a briefing by Conrad on regional FNS issues. Then, she toured SERO's new headquarters and personally met each program director and staff member. Later, she met individually with heads of key cooperating Federal agencies in Atlanta. This included a stand-up lunch with elected and appointed officials from the Southeast.

The day's finale was the open-house ceremony and a keynote speech by Assistant Secretary Bertini.

Reflecting on the past as well as the current importance of FNS programs, she said, "Our mission then and now is to combat hunger in America. We need to be sure we are doing our best to provide the most efficient and best services possible."

She urged all FNS employees to add a New Year's resolution to their own lists. "Let's rededicate ourselves to excellence," she said.

-Story and photo by
SERO Public Affairs Staff

education, and welfare. In addition, the group travelled to the Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council where they visited with tribal officials and viewed two food assistance programs (Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations and WIC).



Visiting the Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council FDPIR warehouse at Nambe Pueblo are Management Deputy Administrator Joe Leo, SWRO Deputy Administrator Mike Montgomery, Victor Lujan (director of the Council's FDPIR), Albuquerque OIC Lydia Maestas, Deputy Assistant Secretary Birge Watkins, and three officials of the Nambe Pueblo.

-Story and photo by Blanche
Jackson, SWRO Public Affairs Staff

Food Stamp Demonstration Held in New Mexico

Deputy Assistant Secretary Birge Watkins, Management Deputy Administrator Joe Leo, and Art Foley (Food Stamp Program Design Branch chief) joined SWRO Administrator Gene Dickey and Deputy Regional Administrator Mike Montgomery in New Mexico in late December for an operational demonstration of the pilot electronic benefit transfer project in Albuquerque.

While in New Mexico, Watkins also visited Governor Garrey Carruthers and the state commissioners of health,

Virginia Family Day-Care Sponsors Receive Training

Members of the MARO Child Care Food Program (CCFP) unit conducted a statewide conference for regional office administrated programs family day-care sponsors in Richmond, Virginia. Some 90 participants included Virginia sponsors; child-care coordinators of Delaware; District of Columbia and Pennsylvania state agencies; FNS headquarters staff; personnel from the Alexandria,

(Training Continued Next Page)

(Training Continued)

Charleston, and Richmond Field Offices; and staff from the Office of Inspector General, Northeast Regional Office.

Tom Leverich, Margarita Maisterrena, Joyce Rouba, and Lucy Mao of MARO's CCFP unit gave presentations and/or moderated discussions concerning the draft family day-care handbook developed by MARO, licensing/alternate approval and the crediting of yogurt in CCFP, and general open forum issues.



Joyce Rouba, food program specialist discusses administrative budgets of family day care with conferees. Seated behind her are Tom Leverich, CCFP unit leader, and Margarita Maisterrena, food program specialist.

Other discussions at the conference included tax issues, licensing, infant meal patterns, and crediting of foods in CCFP.

The conference was well received with numerous participants expressing the hope that it becomes an annual event.

-Story by Kim Jabat
MARO Public Affairs Staff
Photo by Rich Mallam, MARO Child Care and Special Operations Chief

Compliance Officers Meet in Dallas

The six area Compliance officers-in-charge and headquarters Compliance Branch personnel met in Dallas, Texas,

recently to discuss investigative objectives for 1990. The focus was on policy and procedural issues, including a planned initiative involving investigations of unauthorized firms that accept food stamps.

Pictured left to right (back row) are Cliff Rank, COIC, Trenton, New Jersey; Jordan Benderly, Benefit Redemption Division Director; Art Frost, COIC, Chicago, Illinois; Ralph Minton, COIC, Dallas, TX; Bruce Clutter, Chief, Compliance Branch; and (front row) Joe McCormack, COIC, Atlanta, Georgia; Chris Johnson, COIC, Oakland, California; Joe McLin, Assistant Branch Chief; Harry Foster, COIC, Memphis, Tennessee.



-Story by Joe McLin
Compliance Branch
Photo by Judy Snow
SWRO Public Affairs Staff

Vogel Headlines NERO SFP Meeting

Ron Vogel, Supplemental Food Programs (SFP) director, recently addressed the NERO State WIC staff on the issue of nutritional risk criteria at the NERO SFP meeting in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Vogel and NERO SFP Director Lynn Wonders led the meeting by concentrating on the missions of WIC and the Commodity Supplemental Food

(Vogel Continued Next Page)

(Vogel Continued)

Programs, and strategies to improve the quality and efficiency of the services the programs provide.

The meeting, titled "The Decade Ahead - Management Initiatives and Techniques," culminated with a discussion of multi-program coordination and included representatives from both Medicaid and Maternal and Child Health. Coordination between WIC and Medicaid as required by H.R. 24 and techniques for accomplishing that coordination were covered in depth.

-Story by NERO
Public Affairs Staff

MARO Hosts First Meeting for State Treasurers



The accounting officials made themselves comfortable, took off their jackets, and rolled up their sleeves. They laughed when someone said long-sleeved, white shirts were so typical for their profession. The meeting was a first of its kind between state deputy treasurers and financial management officials.

MARO Regional Administrator Christopher Martin formed the group STRATA (State Treasurers Regional Association for Technical Assistance) to promote a working relationship between the region and those state financial staffs responsible for providing FNS cooperating agencies with funds.

"This meeting is long overdue," Martin told the treasurers. "FNS provides about \$3.3 billion to Mid-Atlantic states. We want to acquaint you with our programs and our budget process.

Financial Management Director Ron Koushel outlined how state agencies and FNS operate and explained funding, drawdown, cash management, and debt collection.

Martin asked the group to be sensitive to the principle--if it appears there are insufficient funds to carry the program to the end of the fiscal year, program enrollment should be monitored closely. He further pointed out that FNS continuously warns states if they're not spending enough or overspending.

Throughout the 1-day session the group swapped information. They were surprised by how differently the budget is handled in each state. Citing the WIC budget process as a problem, one of the state participants asked if he could invite a banker to the next STRATA meeting.

-Story by Marian Wig
MARO Public Affairs Staff



Jeannette Morris Serves as SWRO EEO Counselor

Jeannette Morris recently assumed responsibility as EEO counselor for SWRO. Jeannette has worked in the regional office for 19 years, most recently as a food stamp specialist on the Food Stamp Policy Staff.



SWRO's new EEO counselor, Jeannette Morris (left) is pictured with Civil Rights Director Ola Moore.

Jeannette says she's been interested in the EEO and civil rights areas for a long time. "When I started at FNS in the Food Distribution Program, one of my responsibilities was to review the civil rights aspects of the institutions that participated in the commodity program. I enjoyed that part of my job very much and have been interested in such work ever since. When this opportunity came along, I jumped at it."

Jeannette continued, "I'm excited about this opportunity to help others. I feel that I can have a positive impact on the agency's EEO program."

Her 3-year tenure runs through September 1992.

-Story and photo by Blanche Jackson
SWRO Public Affairs Staff

Doloris Oldham Honored by SWRO

Doloris Oldham, chief of general services at SWRO, displays the engraved plaque presented to her when she was recently chosen to receive the region's honorary "Order of the Palm" award for 1989.

Doloris was honored for her dedication to her job and the entire FNS organization. She was specifically cited for her enthusiastic leadership in special activities (such as Toys for Joy) and for consistently demonstrating concern for members of the FNS family who are ill or have other special needs--while effectively continuing to perform her assigned duties.

Doloris has almost 42 years of service with the Federal government, most of it in food assistance. She and her husband James live in Dallas and have two children, Kathy and James, Jr.

The Order of the Palm award has as its motto the Latin phrase, "Palmarum qui moriuntur ferat," or "Let the one who has earned the palm (or honor) wear it." Recipients are selected by unanimous vote of regional program and staff directors. Seven SWRO employees have received this award since it was first presented in 1982.



Doloris Oldham, chief of general services at SWRO, displays the "Order of the Palm" award.

-Story and photo by Blanche Jackson
SWRO Public Affairs Staff

Friday Letter Vacancy Listing by Vacancy Number

JOB TITLE	AREA OF CONSID.	SERIES	GRADE	CLOSING DATE	VACANCY NUMBER	OFFICE LOCATION
o Food Prog. Admin. Spec. (A)		GS-0120	5/7	05/01/90	90-B	FNS-N
o Prop. Util. Spec. (FNS-HQ)		GS-1104	12	03/13/90	90-51	ASD
o Motor Veh. Operator (FNS-HQ)		WG-5703	6	03/13/90	90-52	ASD
o Secretary (Typing) (A)		GS-0318	5/6	03/19/90	90-53	ACD
o Systems Accountant (A)		GS-0510	13	03/16/90	90-54	ACD
o Food Program Spec. (FNS-HQ)		GS-0120	12	03/08/90	90-55	FDD
o Home Economist (A)		GS-0493	11/12	04/16/90	90-H-56	HNIS
o Secretary (Typing) (A)		GS-0318	5	03/26/90	90-57	PID
o Property Disp. Tech. (FNS-LCA)		GS-1107	6	03/14/90	90-58	ASD
o Home Economist (A)		GS-0493	9/11	04/09/90	90-H-59	HNIS
o Food Prog. Spec. (FNS-N)		GM-0120	13	04/02/90	90-60	SNP

Office Location

HNIS - Human Nutrition Information Service
 ASD - Administrative Services Division
 FDD - Food Distribution Division
 ACD - Accounting Division
 PID - Program Information Division
 SNP - Special Nutrition Programs
 FNS-N - Food and Nutrition Service
 (Nationwide)

Area of Consideration

(A) - All Sources
 (FNS-HQ) - Food and Nutrition
 Service (Hdgrs)
 (FNS-LCA) - Food and Nutrition
 Service Local Commuting Area

Statement of Employees' Compensation and Fringe Benefits

The annual statement of employees' compensation and fringe benefits, "Your Personal Statement of Benefits," will soon be mailed to your residence address. This statement is issued for each permanent employee and provides information regarding annual salary, health and life insurance coverage, sick and annual leave, and retirement benefits. It will be mailed to the

same address currently shown on your Earnings and Leave Statement (Form AD-334). For proper mailing, employees should ensure that their current residence address is correctly recorded in the Payroll/Personnel System. Contact your respective personnel office to obtain the appropriate form if you have an address change.